

**From:** Mike Strong  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/12/02 9:11am  
**Subject:** CC scolding sent to Microsoft

You will never be able to volunteer a resolution to your infractions because you are incapable of recognizing any culpability for inappropriate, anti-competitive practices on your part. In your minds, if there is ANY competition remaining in the universe, on any level, on any product, you are totally justified (in your minds) to pursue the most aggressive, monopolistic behaviors that you can you squelch that nook of remaining resistance.

The inanity of your settlement proposal of dumping a billion dollars or so of your own products onto the public sector as a token apology for crimes and indiscretions you obviously do not believe that you've even committed is more than ludicrous. It's insulting. You are flooding the educational sector with your own products, fostering a future dependency on your products... which computer companies have done as an explicit marketing strategy for decades (DEC was the best at this during the seventies with Universities, and Apple in elementary schools). In addition to taking all the benefits of that, business-wise, you try to spin it as some sort of spectacularly sacrificial consolation for your detractors. While you are patting yourselves on your backs, I should think that you are probably writing it all off your corporate taxes at the same time. While I don't know that you've had the audacity to pull that third maneuver, I would expect it. I do not fault the tactic as a business tactic. Rather, I am incensed that you would try to blatantly spin it as penance.

As a computer professional who has developed on your platforms for 15 years, and who has developed products targeted for Microsoft platforms all during that time, I have had enough. You have virtually never cooperated with good, industry standards. Everyone else involved always mistrusts your participation on various standards committees. You only feign to go along for a short time to get your bearings until you can finalize plans for your own, proprietary, parallel standard. You want the world to only have you or the rest of the world to choose from standards wise, and you work feverishly to make use what they are already dependent upon you for to coerce them into accepting your proprietary alternatives to emerging standards.

Microsoft should have embraced J2EE. .NET is a total offense to me professionally.

Your subscription-licensing model, while suitable in a few contexts, where clear, on-going service and value are being provided, is otherwise a subtle trap that you are laying down. Because some people have become content with earlier versions of certain MS products that have been perfectly adequate for them, you cannot bear having them not make their annual sacrifice at your altar. You feel compelled to ensnare everyone into putting out their financial arm for an unending IV transfusion into your wallet. You want to be the all-encompassing public utility for all activities, all commerce, all enterprise functionality and endeavors.

The fact that you have done many good things, and made many wonderful products that all of us want to support you in, such as Microsoft Word, et al, makes your excesses, indiscretions, and greed all the more egregious and scandalous.

You must be resisted by the most aggressive means. I will boycott your products and services every chance I can in every context that I can, and I will actively encourage others to do so, until and unless you demonstrate some willingness to behave well. While aggressive competitiveness is the "American way", it comes with rules of engagement and fair play. If you've won 90% of the monopoly board, you must be reconciled to the fact that you have to begin to play the game differently. What was OK 15 to 20 years ago, can no longer be the mind set by which you operate today.

Either accept the separation of the OS business from the applications business, or accept public-utility style regulation. You have to accept one or the other at this point, or you will be taking a position of overt evil. No amount of rationalization or word-smithing will be able to assuage the wrath you will deserve.

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